(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (e) Government had invited project proposals from all State Governments/ Union Territories for consideration under the 'Apparel Parks for Exports' Scheme. Since the inception of Scheme in March, 2002, twelve Project Proposals have been sanctioned for setting up Apparel Parks at Tronica City and Kanpur (U.P.). Surat (Gujarat), Thiruvanahthapuram (Kerala), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Ludhiana (Punjab), Bangalor (Karnataka), Tirupurand Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu), SEZ, Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Mahal, Jaipur, (Rajasthan) and Butibori-Nagpur (Maharashtra). Netaji Apparel Park at Tirupur has become operational and the other sanctioned Apparel Park projects are at different stages of implementation.

In view of the experience gained during the last three years of the operation of 'Apparel Parks for Exports' schemes, Government has undertaken a mid-course review of the Scheme with the basic objective of bringing in urgency in implementation of the Scheme. Extensive discussions have been held in the Inter-Ministerial meetings with the stakeholders/State Governments, wherein it was proposed to effect modifications in the Scheme to bring in proper targeting, aggressive marketing, involvement of private sector and to increase the level of assistance under the Scheme.

Clandestine imports of Chinese raw silk

1695. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched futures trading in cocoon and raw silk at the National Commodity and Derivative Exchanges to enable the actual users to cover price fluctuations;

(b) whether this move will solely benefit the buyer/end-users of cocoon and raw silk to the detriment of producers/sellers who are small marginal farmers; and

(c) what are reasons of addressing in the basic issue of clandestine imports of Chinese raw silk resulting in destablization of domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Futures trading in.raw silk and cocoons has been launched by Central Silk Board (CSB) at the platform of National Commodity

and Derivatives Exchange Ltd. (NCDEX) on 20th January, 2005. Futures trading provides, an attemate trading avenue for the stake holders like farmers, rubers, weavers and traders and helps them through a better price discovery for their produce. It also helps them to present the risk associated with price rise and fall and its volatility through hedging. Futures trading will not be detrimental to the benefit of producers/sellers who are small/marginal Farmers.

(c) Import of Silk is under Open General License (OGL) since 2001. Silk imports into India, mainly from China, have increased substantially after the removal of quantitative restrictions on 1.4.2001 and prices have also fallen at the same time, leading to market disruption. The matter of putting a curb on clandestine imports through the borders falls under the purview of Central Board of Exicse and Customs (CBEC) which keeps vigil on the borders of Bangladesh and Nepal to curb illicit import into the country.

12.00 NOON

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Correcting the Answer to Unstarred Question

ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री (श्री रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह): सभापति जी, मैं"पी. एम. जी.एस.वाई के लिए मध्य प्रदेश द्वारा मांगी गई धनराशि" के संबंध में 15 दिसम्बर, 2004 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 1398 के लिए दिए गए उत्तर के संशोधनार्थ एक विवरण (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूं।

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1738 B/05]

PROCLAMATION UNDER ARTICLE 356 OF THE CONSTITUTION

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

(i) Proclamation [G.S.R. No. 162(E)], issued by the President on the 7th March, 2005, under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Bihar, under clause (3) of the said article.

(ii) Order [GS.R. No. 163(E)], dated the 7th March, 2005, made by the President under sub-clause (i) of clause (c) of the above Proclamation.

Report of the Governor of Bihar dated the 6th March, 2005, to the President recommending the issue of the Proclamation.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1717/05]